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(54) Anti-tip assembly for power wheelchair

(57) A power wheelchair includes an anti-tip assembly extending from the frame. The anti-tip assembly includes a plate (44) secured to the frame via a dampening mechanism (46). A first arm (52) extends from the plate (44) and is mounted thereto for a limited amount of relative movement. A ground engaging wheel (72) disposed on a distal end of the arm (52) is urged toward the ground surface by a biasing spring (68) interposed between the arm (52) and the plate (44). As the wheelchair begins to tip, anti-tip or resistive forces are generated initially by the biasing spring (68). This resisting force continues in a linear fashion until relative movement between the arm (52) and the plate (44) ceases. Thereafter, further resistive forces are provided by the dampener (46) as movement of the plate (44) toward the frame is resisted in a linear fashion by the dampener (46).

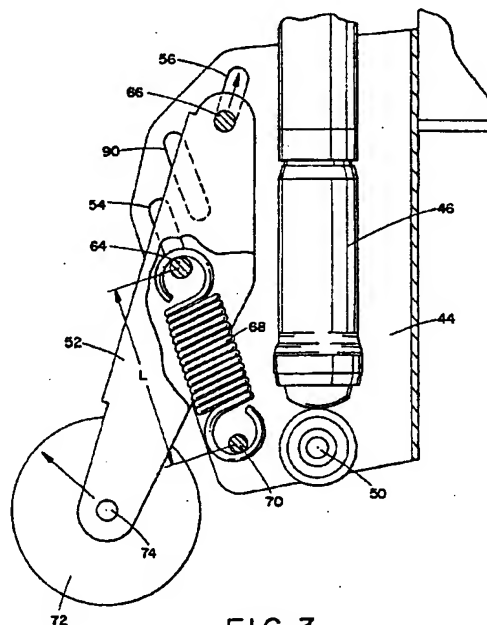


FIG. 3

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EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

Application Number
EP 98 30 8024

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Category	Citation of document with indication, where appropriate, of relevant passages	Relevant to claim	CLASSIFICATION OF THE APPLICATION (Int.Cl.6)
A, D	US 5 575 348 A (GOERTZEN GEROLD G ET AL) 19 November 1996 (1996-11-19) * the whole document *	1	A61G5/04 A61G5/10
A	US 5 435 404 A (GARIN III PAUL V) 25 July 1995 (1995-07-25) * column 8, line 16 - line 23; figures 8, 11 *	1, 8, 14	
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			TECHNICAL FIELDS SEARCHED (Int.Cl.6)
			A61G
The present search report has been drawn up for all claims			
Place of search THE HAGUE		Date of completion of the search 15 October 1999	Examiner Baert, F
<p>CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS</p> <p>X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document</p> <p>T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document</p>			

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ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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For more details about this annex : see Official Journal of the European Patent Office, No. 12/82